Proposals pending with NEC

2670. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of proposals which have either been returned or lying pending with NEC for more than one year;

(b) if so, the names of the projects; and

(c) the measures to have a considered view on those proposals and to sanction them?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No project proposals are lying pending with NEC for more than one year. Project proposals are at times referred back to the project proponents including the State Governments for modification and improvement. Some project proposals are referred to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for processing as per procedure.

(c) Processing of project proposals for approvals and sanctions is a continuous process. It is followed case by case. The State Governments are required to prepare project proposals in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Ministries. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in collaboration with other Central Ministries and reputed Training Institutes of the country has been organizing training in project report preparation for the State Government Officials. In addition, the system of processing of project proposals is continuously streamlined both in NEC and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region so as to avoid undue delay in issue of approvals and sanctions.

Transportation problems in NER

2671. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of the North-Eastern Region are facing transportation problem;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to alleviate their problems; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Looking into the transportation problem of the people of the NER, the Government has recently taken the following major steps:

(i) A total of 182 projects relating to roads and bridges, at an approved cost of Rs. 971.69 crore, have been sanctioned till 31.03.05 under the Scheme of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(ii) An outlay of Rs. 144.73 crore was approved for Transport & Communication Sector in Tenth Plan of North Eastern Council.

(iii) A special allocation of Rs. 450 crore has been made in Union Budget 2005-06 of the Department of Road Transport & Highways for the NER.

(iv) New Train services namely, 709/710 Guwahati-New Bongaigaon Passenger and 915/916 Furkating-Mariani passenger, have been introduced from 23/05/05 and 01/07/05 respectively.

(v) Extension of 4083/4084 Delhi-Jalpaiguri Mahananda Express to Alipurduar and 913/914 Marinand passenger to Jorhat has been done from July, 2005.

(vi) The frequency of 2423A/2424A and 2435A/2436A New Delhi-Guwahati-Dibrugarh Rajdhani Link Express have been increased from July, 2005.

(vii) Development works for A320/B737-800 type aircraft have been completed for Lilabari, Imphal, Agartala, Dimapur and Tejpur Airports. The works for upgradation of Dibrugarh airport and Silchar Defence airport have been awarded.

(viii) Air connectivity has improved substantially with the commissioning of 4 ATR aircrafts in the Region with financial support of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

Vision documents for development of NER

2672. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state: